

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated October 3, 2000, the Examiner allowed claims 3, 5, 14 and 16; rejected claims 2, 4, 8, 9, 13, 15, 19-26 and 28-30; and objected to claims 6, 7, 17, 18 and 27. By this amendment, Applicant cancels claims 6, 17 and 27 without prejudice or disclaimer, amends claims 2-5, 7-9, 13-16, 25, 28-30 and adds new claims 31-35. Thus, claims 2-5, 7-9, 13-16, 18-26, and 28-35 are currently pending.

Amendments to allowed claims 3, 5, 14 and 16

In the Office Action, the subject matter of claims 3, 5, 14 and 16 was found allowable. Applicant has amended allowed claims 3, 5, 14 and 16 to address grammatical informalities. Accordingly, these amendments have not been made for reasons related to patentability.

Rejection of claims 2, 4, 8, 9, 13, 15, 19-26 and 28-30

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 2, 4, 8, 9, 13, 15, 19-26 and 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as allegedly being unpatentable over Crane et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,054,991 ('Crane') in view of Blahut et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,463,728 ('Blahut') and further in view of Harrison et al., "Transparent Layered User Interfaces: an Evaluation of a Display Design to Enhance Focused and Divided Attention" ('Harrison'). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claims 2, 8, 9, 13, 25, 28, 29 and 30 are amended herein to include subject matter that the Examiner admitted is allowable. Thus, claims 2, 8, 9, 13, 25, 28, 29 and 30 are allowable as amended.

Claims 4, 7, 19 and 23 depend from claim 2 and are allowable for at least their dependency on allowable claim 2 as well as their additional recitations. Claim 20 depends from claim 8 and is allowable for at least its dependency on allowable claim 8

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as well as its additional recitations. Claim 21 depends from claim 9 and is allowable for at least its dependency on allowable claim 9 as well as its additional recitations. Claims 15, 18, 22 and 24 depend from claim 13 and are allowable for at least their dependency on allowable claim 13 as well as their additional recitations. Claim 26 depends from claim 25 and is allowable for at least its dependency on allowable claim 25 as well as its additional recitations. Accordingly, for at least all of the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejections to claims 2, 4, 8, 9, 13, 15, 19-26 and 28-30 be withdrawn.

New claims 31-35

New claims 31-35 include subject matter that the Examiner admitted is allowable. Thus, claims 31-35 are also allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2, 4, 8, 9, 13, 15, 19-26 and 28-30 and the timely allowance of claims 2, 4, 8, 9, 13, 15, 19-26 and 28-35.

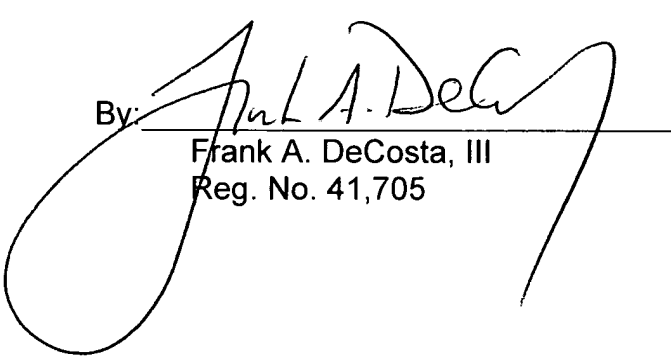
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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